



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

November 21, 2018

Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee
North Carolina General Assembly
16 W. Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1030

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project R-2576 calls for transportation improvements in the Currituck Sound area with focus on the consideration of a Mid-Currituck Bridge. The proposed action is a seven-mile long project including a two-lane bridge that spans Currituck Sound connecting the Currituck County mainland with its Outer Banks, and a separate two-lane bridge that spans Maple Swamp on the Currituck County mainland connecting Aydlett to U.S. 158.

In January 2012, NCDOT, the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. Work on the Record of Decision was paused following the approval of the Final EIS, in order for NCDOT to establish the state, regional, and local transportation improvement funding priorities using the strategic prioritization process in accordance with the Strategic Transportation Investments legislation that was signed into law in June 2013. The Mid-Currituck Bridge project was ranked using the new funding formula and as a result, it was initially funded in the 2016-2025 STIP for right-of-way acquisition and construction to begin in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

Once funding for the project was established, work toward a Record of Decision resumed. In accordance with federal regulations, the EIS is being reevaluated because it has been more than three years since the approval of the Final EIS. This reevaluation will consider changes regarding the project, its surroundings, impacts, and any new issues, circumstances, or information that was not considered in the original document, and/or changes in laws or regulations that apply to the project. The purpose of the reevaluation is to assess whether a supplemental EIS is required. If the reevaluation process concludes that the information presented in the Final EIS is an accurate analysis of the anticipated project impacts, the Record of Decision will be published signifying the completion of the environmental study process.

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Project Development Schedule (subject to change; assuming supplemental EIS not needed)

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • Draft Environmental Impact Statement | Completed March 2010 |
| • Final Environmental Impact Statement | Completed January 2012 |
| • Reevaluation of Final Environmental Impact Statement | Underway |
| • Record of Decision | Underway |

Additional activities to take place before any construction begins include: developing a new traffic and revenue study and toll financing plan, selecting a builder, preparing final design plans, acquiring right of way, and obtaining environmental agency permits.

Please feel free to contact me at (919) 707-2715 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Beau Memory
Executive Director
North Carolina Turnpike Authority

cc: Secretary James H. Trogon III